



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Idaho Red Meat Down 49 Percent

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for December 2005 totaled 19.6 million pounds, down 49 percent from last year according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. December production was down 12 percent from the 22.4 million pounds produced in November. Accumulated red meat production for the January-December 2005 period totaled 313 million pounds, down 30 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in December 2004. Beef production, at 2.06 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 1 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,100 head, down 19 percent from December 2004. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, slightly below December 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago. January to December 2005 commercial red meat production was 45.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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